

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 14-17, and 19-31 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 14-17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, and 30 are rejected. Claims 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, and 31 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 have been amended. Claims 11, 14, 15, 20, 24-28, 30, and 31 have been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 11, 14, 19, 21, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-4, 11, 14, 19, 21, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0110134 to Gracon, et al. ("Gracon"). Claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 have been amended. Claims 11, 14, and 26 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of cancelled claim 20, claim 6 has been amended to include the elements of cancelled claims 24 and 25, and claim 16 has been amended to include the elements of cancelled claims 30 and 31. Cancelled claims 20, 25, 27, and 31 have all been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, and 16 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 19, and 21 is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 5-7, 10, 15-17, 23-24 and 29-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-7, 10, 15-17, 23-24 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gracon in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,168 to Bearden, et al. ("Bearden"). Claims 24 and 30 have been cancelled. Since claims 1, 6, and 16 are now in condition for allowance, claims 5-7, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 29, which depend therefrom, are now also in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-7, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 29 is respectfully requested.

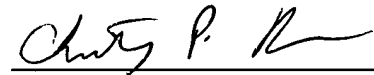
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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